

PRESS RELEASE

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EDTalks Event Connects Education, Jobs and WV's Future

Morgantown, W.Va. – On Tuesday, May 20, 2014, The Education Alliance launched the *EDTalks: Connecting Education, Jobs and Our Future* speaker series with an event at the Morgantown Event Center. EDTalks is an education-based speaker series that promotes innovative discussion and big ideas on strengthening public education.

“As we think about the tremendous economic opportunities and challenges facing our state, the connection between jobs and education is obvious. Engaging our communities in this conversation is mission critical to our success,” said Dr. Amelia Courts, president and chief executive officer of The Education Alliance. “The Education Alliance is excited to hear from influential thought leaders on how we can strengthen the pipeline to future jobs in West Virginia.”

The EDTalks event featured Dr. E. Gordon Gee, an influential thought leader, and Sierra Cook, a student entrepreneur who won the WVU high school business competition. They shared innovative ideas on how we can strengthen the pipeline to future jobs in West Virginia.

According to Dr. Gee, “Colleges and universities have the power to take ideas and turn them into jobs. To harness that power, we must build partnerships with everyone -- government, industry, K-12 educators, communities, and other institutions. Working together, we can create a future that offers opportunity to our young people and a talented workforce for our employers.”

“At my high school the teachers care about their students, their education, and their future,” said Sierra Cook, featured EDTalks speaker. “As a young person, I see entrepreneurship as my opportunity to build a career that I love and give back to West Virginia.”

EDTalks will be held across West Virginia to provide a lively series of networking and education events designed to engage business, education, and community leaders in public education issues. Each program will feature compelling presentations by cutting-edge speakers, professionals, and advocates along with ample time for conversation and networking.

The Education Alliance invites the public to attend the next EDTalks event to be held on June 19, 2014 in Charles Town, WV. For more information on the EDTalks speaker series or view a video of featured speakers, visit EducationAlliance.org/EDTalks or contact The Education Alliance at 866-314-KIDS.

This event was sponsored by Frontier Communications; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; JPMorgan Chase; Jackson Kelly, PLLC; Northeast Natural Energy; Dominion Resources; Thrasher Engineering; Robinson & McElwee, PLLC; Scott & Carol Rotruck; Stephen & Barbara Hopta; United Bank; and West Virginia University.

About The Education Alliance

Founded in July 1983 as the first statewide public education fund in the nation, The Education Alliance is a private-sector initiative to help businesses understand the importance of financially and resourcefully supporting the state's public schools and to give business a voice in public education that advances policies and practices to continually improve public school student achievement in West Virginia.

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